

FRANCES DUYCKINCK COOPER WOOD

THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Francis Duyckinck Cooper Wood

(1904 -)

Mrs. Wood is the granddaughter of Dr. John Strayer McGrew, the "Father of Annexation," and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bryant Cooper. Sanford Ballard Dole was her godfather; Nellie White, her godmother.

Because the Coopers knew and entertained many prominent persons, including General and Mrs. George S. Patton, Mrs. Wood first met Governor Lucius E. Pinkham when she was about five years old. During his term of office, Governor Pinkham lived in a cottage on the Coopers' property and at his request Mrs. Cooper served as hostess at the governor's official social functions.

Special acknowledgment of her help and a warm mahalo are due Mrs. Fred O. (Margaret Smith) Young, who suggested and arranged this interview in which Mrs. Wood provides an abundance of information and impressions of many important persons, with special focus on Governor Pinkham.

Katherine B. Allen, Interviewer

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Frances Duyckinck Cooper Wood

(Mrs. Gerard Hadden Wood)

At the Manoa home of Miss Beatrice Krauss,
2437 Parker Place, Honolulu, 96822

May 28, 1980

W: Frances D. C. Wood

A: Katherine B. Allen, Interviewer

A: (explaining the mechanics of recording) When we do this that means we're dictating now and I'd like you to say something so that we can then play it back and see how your voice is going to be picked up on this.

W: I see.

A: You could just give your name if you'd like to.

W: Um hm. Frances Wood. Frances Cooper Wood.

A: Yes. How do you pronounce your middle name? Frances and it starts with a D.

W: Oh, Duyckinck. Duyckinck. D-U-Y-C-K-I-N-C-K. And Dyke was my nickname. My school friends called me Dyke. I wasn't Frances because everybody called me Frances and that was very special for my friends.

A: I see. (we play the tape) All right, now it's recording so you go right ahead, Mrs. Wood.

W: I first met Uncle Pink [Governor Lucius Eugene Pinkham] when I was, oh, four or five or six years old. My father was Doctor Charles Bryant Cooper and Mother was the daughter of Doctor [John Strayer] McGrew and we had a very unpretentious house up Puunui Valley and the family was always bringing in stray people. Governor Pinkham, then Uncle Pink to us--Lucius E. Pinkham--was one of the bachelors without any special home. I never did know where he lived.

Then in 1910 my grandfather died. In 1900 my grand-

parents had sold their old coral home down on Bishop Street to Alexander Young, which is the place which is now the Young Hotel [Alexander Young Building, now an office building], and then bought the Hackfeld property, which was a whole block, and it had a red hedge around it and it was called Red Hedge and a wooden house, painted with sand on the outside. And it had a formal entrance way with a tree and a circle around it where, that side, the callers called on us formally; and then the other side, we used. Then there was a cottage beside it where at one time my Uncle Tarn McGrew, when he was a bachelor, lived.

When we moved into the big house, it was in 1913, I would say, and they were looking for a Democratic governor and Judge [Edward M.] Watson would have been the choice but he had a stroke and he was unable to be governor. And there were very few Democrats and really nobody groomed for the position and Lucius E. Pinkham was an engineer and also he'd been sent out by the plantation people to get Filipinos for the plantations--sent out to the Philippines. And then also he'd been connected with the Public Health Service in Honolulu and he was from Worcester, Massachusetts.

He walked with a very severe limp. He always used crutches and he had a raised shoe. He had fallen out of a tree as a child and he was always in pain, which made him rather irritable. He wasn't used to children. He didn't like noises. One amusing thing: the Canon William Aults were our neighbors on Green Street, immediately back of us, and there were four children in that family and Norman Ault, who just retired as an Episcopal clergyman, used to run around the yard and mimic the claxon horns, saying, "Da der, da der, da der der der der der da!" (chuckles) and that would drive Uncle Pink mad.

Well, I was about thirteen, or maybe I was younger than that, and he enjoyed having me accompany him in the afternoons when he came home tired from the Executive Building and sometimes we would drive up Nuuanu to see how much water there was in the reservoir if there was a drought and I would just hop into the Packard, barefooted in my little gingham dress. And my father also made a fuss. I had two older brothers but I was sort of a pet so I felt very close to Uncle Pink and he actually was very fond. . . . He had no family of his own. He had a brother in Worcester and he had a niece in Kansas City--she and her husband had a music school--but she was always trying to get money from him and he actually had no money.

When he was chosen for governor, he was the first man without a wife or a home and there was no gubernatorial mansion at that time. Governor [Sanford B.] Dole had his home. There was Carter--George Carter--and Governor [Wal-

ter Francis] Frear. And so, Uncle Pink approached my parents and he said, "Kate and Charlie, would you let me live with you and will you be my hostess?" And there was this cottage on the place where he could be cared for and he had his own little Japanese maid, Masa, who was pretty as a picture. She was perfectly beautiful and she used to help dress him and he was meticulous about everything. His clothes were just so. He loved the formality of wearing the long-tailed coat and a top hat and all the embellishments that went with his office. And he stood up as straight as he could and [observed] all the formalities.

We would go out to Schofield [Barracks] to reviews out there and in those days it was just nothing but a dusty plain with the caissons and the horses dashing around. And, of course, we knew intimately all of the officers. The heads of the army and navy became personal friends and so it was interesting.

And Jack London was in Honolulu at that time with his wife, Charmian, and it was scandalous because Jack London came to a dinner party in a soft shirt and a soft, black tie. Charmian wrote up my father in a book that she wrote. She got very badly sunburned and went to my father. And she gave me her books--gave us--for a wedding present.

And [Warren Gamaliel] Harding was out with some senators and we entertained them all at our home. When he became president, he asked my father if he cared to be governor and my father turned it down, naturally, but he did represent government, when we went to Europe, as a dollar-a-year man in checking on the patients in sanitariums and hospitals in Europe after World War I. We were there in 1922.

Uncle Pink was a very just man. In the beginning of the war, we were neutral and he was criticized for contributing to the German Red Cross but he explained there were children there; he could see no reason why he shouldn't contribute to the German Red Cross. And one morning, the American flag was put up upside down by the Korean gardener quite accidentally and that created a furor. That was a signal to the Germans of some kind, I don't know what. (chuckles)

The newspapers were always depicting him as a little old lady with a bonnet on and an apron and this Allen used to write these horrible articles about him in the paper--bitter political articles. Well, in 1925, when my father went out to Japan as a representative at the first international conference held in Japan on tropical medicine, we met this newspaper man and he leaned backwards to really show us everything of interest and he told us that he had never admired anybody more than Governor Pinkham. He was, of course, paid to lambaste him.

- A: And his name was Riley Allen or was that . . .
- W: No. You know, now, frankly my memory leaves me but somehow we can check on it. But he was in Japan at the time.
- A: Which newspaper was he with?
- W: Oh, I guess it was the Advertiser because I think it was the Advertiser that was always--gave him the . . .
- A: Well, I can look that up.
- W: Yes, you might check on that.
- A: All right. [Riley Allen, editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin]
- W: But I was so pleased.
- A: Um hm, that he did admire him.
- W: Yes, um hm. Oh, and by the way, he did so many constructive things. I think he was one of the biggest, greatest governors of the Islands, at least up to that time. Tantalus Road only went up to Tantalus and he planned the Round Top Road, which brought it down into Makiki. He also planned the drainage of Waikiki, of the Ala Wai Canal. That was his plan. He also planted the trees along Kalakaua Avenue--that was his personal idea--and we used to drive out to see how they were growing.
- A: He was responsible for the Waikiki reclamation, I believe.
- W: Yes, yes, that was the Ala Wai Canal, yeh. Well, the man died a pauper. He was never a very strong man and, after his term in office, he left the Islands and went to live with his niece in Kansas City and was very unhappy there. And I think he died in San Francisco. I think he became ill there. The newspaper articles, I have some but I haven't them now. [Died November 2, 1922, San Francisco]
- A: What was his niece's name, do you know?
- W: I don't know. Totsie was her nickname and she was an impossible person, just out to get anything she could and just mean as could be to him. And so, he had really no loving family to care for him.
- Bertha Ben Taylor, who was supervisor of the schools on Hawaii--was it West Hawaii?--used to spend every vacation--camp on us every vacation: Easter, Christmas, summer. And she and Uncle Pink would get into horrible arguments about the school board and about, you know--she was

very demanding in what she wanted. And he was positive and she was positive and that was really part of it.

Also, I remember Sunday mornings, occasionally, Sam Parker would come in and the two old men would have Sunday morning breakfast together and discuss things. And my brother, Bryant, who was a youngster and always made jokes, used to say. . . . Uncle Pink had this protruding chin and he always had an egg for breakfast every morning and Bryant would say, "Uncle Pink dropped on his chin, Mother on her bosom, and Pops on his opu." (laughter)

Also, Bryant at two years old, three years old--just a little tot--just had his first suit, I guess, and fell down and hurt his little bottom; and so he pulled down his pants and he said, "Kiss it, Uncle Pink." (laughter) So he had a little family life. A little.

Oh, and when my brother, Jack, went to the naval academy, Jack was in the Class of 1923 and he shouldn't have gone in when he was sixteen. He was undersized--he'd been sick as a baby--and he was not athletic and he did not have the mathematics he should have at that age and he was always worried about dropping out. And Uncle Pink said, "Don't worry about that. President Harding will see that he stays in." (chuckles) In those days, you did a personal favor for somebody, it was just--if they were a friend, that wasn't impossible. It seems silly to us now, but I have letters to show that.

Well, let's see, what other personal anecdotes?

A: Do you want to turn it off and rest for a little while?

W: Yes, turn it off. (recorder is turned off and on again)

A: All right.

W: He [Governor Pinkham] used to go to parties on Tantalus. We had the first house on Tantalus and the family would go up there and have large groups of friends up there and there's a picture of him up there then and even with my grandparents, so he was a friend way back. [See page 36]

Curtis Iaukea was a friend of his. Charles and Marcia Forbes. And Charles Forbes was the one that got into the Teapot [Dome] scandal in Washington. He was given a--he got into a job with President Harding.

A: Was he one of the participants in that?

W: Yes, he was. Yes, he was one of them. Yeh. And I think he deserted his wife, Marcia, and there was a very charming little daughter.

Ah, shall we. . . ? (the recorder is turned off and on again)

A: Go ahead.

W: Well, the . . .

A: It's all right if there're pauses.

W: Phillippses. He was one of the few Jews in Honolulu and they were close friends--family friends--of his.

A: What Phillipps?

W: I don't know. Manny. Manny Phillips.

A: Manny?

W: Manny, yes.

A: M-A-N-N-Y?

W: I think so. Manny Phillips. And they went back to San Francisco. The Denisons were also friends. George Denison.

A: What type of parties did he enjoy the most?

W: Well, he had to do official entertaining and we had this Japanese maid, who came to Mother when she was fourteen years old and I was four months old, and she died at the age of eighty-six just a few years ago. And she was in complete charge of the setting of the table, the silver, the wine glasses and whatnot; and Mother and Uncle Pink had to buy official silver with C on it for all the --several dozen in the set. And Wall and Dougherty's was the jewelers, I guess, from which they bought it.

A: Which jewelers?

W: Wall and Dougherty. And also, they bought a car together, which they shared--a Packard car--and had a Russian chauffeur by the name of Nick. He was very inventive. Then we had a little Chevrolet to run around in, too. And Mother did all the marketing herself.

I used to stay with Shige-san [Uyeda] at her home up in Puunui and she told me how stingy Mother had been and how terrible the servants were treated. They had to make their meals off of twenty-five cents of meat. (chuckles) And we also had a Japanese . . .

A: Who is Shige-san?

W: Shige-san is just a beloved person who would always--took

care of and was with the family forever.

A: This is your Japanese maid?

W: Yes, she was trained by my grandmother and she was with my father and mother. And then during the war, after my father died, why, she had her own car and she went around to take care of different people's homes when they were out working for business people. And also, she took care of my brother, who was batching at Pearl Harbor. He had been in the navy and then, when the Japanese attacked, he went back into uniform and lived at home [McGrew Point].

She was driving to Aiea, at the time, to our place--McGrew Point was our home down there--and she said, "God damn the Japanese!" She was so tiny in the car that, you know, you couldn't even see her. It was funny for people riding in back because you couldn't even see her. (chuckles) At that stage, she no longer wore--none of the Japanese wore--their kimonos, but in the time of Governor Pinkham, everybody--the servants or maids--always wore kimonos. And I remember every Christmas the maids got new kimonos and obis as a Christmas present. And she recalled her Christmases on Kauai, where she was born. Oh dear, I don't know the family but they gave them candy and made it a real Christmas.

And she loved our children and she loved my brother Bryant's children and when we came down with our children, she was so worried that they might be afraid of her because of her color. At Peggy Mae's daughter's wedding, she held court. All the young people just loved her so dearly and when they saw her there, they gathered around her.

She would go with me to Saint Andrew's and take communion with me. And she hated to cook and so when I visited her, we'd always go out to eat. But her greatest thing was that nobody had ever celebrated her birthday and Al Wilkinson and Helen took her out for her first birthday party (chuckles). And when we went to a restaurant, up she'd walk and stride in front of everybody and she was always so cute.

She wrote to me every week and her letters are so interesting that I think they should be recorded. And I said, "A book called Shige would tell about the whole Cooper family, from my grandparents to our grandchildren," because she was so devoted. And even about her son, who she had her mother bring up because he would have been in the way when Governor Pinkham was governor, she said, "Oh, he's Japanese. He doesn't understand." And my friends said, "Well, Shige thinks haole." (laughter)

She just took care of all of us. She'd scold Mother for leaving her jewelry around and she spoiled me so, that I had a hard time learning how to pick up after myself.

But she just was a rare person. (recorder is turned off and on again)

A: We were just speaking about where your home was located at the time that Governor Pinkham was living at your home.

W: Yes.

A: You said it was at Lunalilo and Hackfeld [streets].

W: Next to the [Territorial] Normal School and the streetcar went right by it. It was right at the top of the hill. And Hackfeld Street--during the war, they changed the name from Hackfeld to Emerson because the Emersons had done a great deal [in WW I] and Mother's nose was quite out of joint because she felt it should be McGrew Street, but there was a McGrew Lane somewhere, so that was that.

A: What size was the cottage he had there?

W: I think it was only a two-room cottage or three-room cottage with a bath.

A: Where was his official entertaining done?

W: In our home.

A: I see.

W: He had all his meals with us. We had a large round table out on the lanai and then there was a dark, great big dining room with German furniture, which I imagine had been bought, probably, from the Hackfelds--a huge sideboard and we had at least twenty-four chairs at this great big, long table for the formal parties--dinner parties. And we kids used to sneak outside and look at them and, of course, there was nearly always music. Very often there was music.

A: I think I'd better stop this (recorder) now and turn this over.

END OF SIDE 1/1ST TAPE

A: You mentioned that you didn't remember that he . . .

W: I don't remember him [Governor Pinkham] ever going to church. I don't remember any special church affiliation. And also, I don't know that he ever belonged to any clubs. He wasn't a joiner. Possibly he belonged to the [Oahu] Country Club, but I doubt it; being lame, I mean, he would not have, you know, belonged to a golf club. In those days

there were many parties and much activity at the club, but he was definitely a loner. That's why you don't know much about him. He was an honest man, very honest; very firm in his beliefs, but he never sermonized or anything. I think he accepted us as we were and I just admired him and gave him a bit of affection. I really know so little about him. The newspapers can give a little bit and if I run across anything of further interest, I'll see that you get it.

A: I think you know a great deal about him that no one else does because you lived in such close proximity to him and at that time, you would have been about how old?

W: Twelve to sixteen.

A: Let's see, you were born in . . .

W: 1904.

A: 1904.

W: Yes.

A: And he was governor in 1914.

W: Yes, well, that makes me younger, doesn't it?

A: Ten years old.

W: Yes. He was kindly. He was a very gracious person.

Oh, and Alexander Hume Ford was very active at that time and started the Pan-Pacific movement; and the Outrigger [Canoe Club] was started at that time [1908]. We used to call Alexander Hume Ford Runabout Ford because he had this old rattly-bang Model T Ford and he always wore white with spots on it, because he was a bachelor and had nobody taking care of him. And he would go to one person, "Well now, you have a nice piece of property. You can give that to us for such-and-such." He was interested in the Orient and having a Mid-Pacific place. And he said that the things that he told the Japanese, they never broke their promise. I mean, it was always kept secret.

A: What are you referring to?

W: Well, contacts with the Japanese. And I remember a beautiful, lovely red cloisonne vase was given him by one of the Japanese noblemen, who had been in the Islands. I was a little bit young. I didn't really pay much attention to politics or anything like that.

A: But everything that the Japanese told him . . .

W: No, that wasn't Governor Pinkham. That was Alexander Hume Ford. Didn't go any further. And when I went out to the Orient with my parents, he gave us--Alexander Hume Ford--letters to Prince Tokugawa in Japan; and then to a Chinese sugar broker in Hong Kong; and to a man in Siam, who was called the Burbank of Siam, who had a fabulous garden. We didn't have a chance to look up the Chinese gentleman on our way down to Singapore and Java and Bali, but on the way back we did and he said he was very worried about us. But these letters were as though they were from royalty; and we all looked upon Alexander Hume Ford as a crackpot and made jokes about him and whatnot, but he just opened everything.

A: He was very much respected there.

W: Oh, what he did. I mean, he had been a newspaper man in Chicago before going out. And also, he brought back surfing at Waikiki--that had been a dead art--and was responsible, too--I mean, the Outrigger Club started because of that.

So it was fun living in the heyday of the Islands. Every boat would bring people with letters of introduction and then later on, after the Hackfeld home had been sold, we moved down to Pearl Harbor to a place my grandparents had and there the family entertained informally and we'd have as many as thirty to sixty people. I mean, we had stacks of china and I could bring home five or eight people just by telephoning a half hour ahead. We would start a party and call up our friends and say, "Oh, we're having a good time. Come on, join us." We had victrola records and whatnot and, 'course, we had so many navy friends and we would be able to go aquaplaning in Pearl Harbor. And when the British special service squadron was in Honolulu, when Governor [Wallace Rider] Farrington was governor, Mrs. Farrington was away and his daughter, Frances, was then a debutante and rather than have the matrons without their husbands, he had the debutantes. And the H.M.S. Hood and all these ships were there. We had a ball.

I kept in touch with Captain [Charles] Round-Turner, who was captain of the H.M.S. Dauntless, and they said that they had never had as good a time anywhere on their trip around the world as they did in Honolulu; and then next to that was Vancouver. And then again after that, when my husband [Gerard Hadden Wood] and I, after Mother's death, visited in England, twenty-six of their family turned out to greet us and entertain us in England.

I just felt that my life had been so rich, knowing all these people; and the more important they were, the

more informal. I'd always felt that English people were so formal. And I called him Cousin Charles. I thought that, well, he was a captain, age of forty or forty-four, and I was twenty and I thought that, you know. . . . He teased me about that. And Mother, during the war, sent-- we were able to send them liquor and meat. They could get through England that way.

A: That's World War . . .

W: No, that was II.

A: World War II.

W: Yeh.

A: Have to clarify that.

W: Yes, World War II.

A: You mentioned something about garden parties on the Hackfeld lawn [in a letter of January 21, 1980 from her home in Bedford, New York].

W: Oh yes.

A: Now where was the Hackfeld lawn?

W: That was the Lunailo and Hackfeld Street, next to the normal school. And Mrs. Apana--those two Hawaiian ladies-- and I forget who the other one was. [Nani Alapai was a soloist with the Royal Hawaiian Band that played at the garden parties.] And of course, Captain [Henry] Berger always led the music.

A: Royal Hawaiian Band.

W: The Royal Hawaiian Band. These would be official parties, you see.

A: Was there a large lawn there?

W: Oh yes, it was a whole block and there was a fountain up near the house and then there was a big lawn. And also, we could open up the house and have teas up there, but when we had the singing and the band it would be out there.

A: Do you recall Sam Parker yourself?

W: Yes, um hm.

A: What was your impression of Sam Parker?

W: Well, he was a friendly old man with a drooping mustache and dark complexion and fairly hefty because he was an old man then. But of course, during my grandparents time--that was the time of the monarchy and, of course, that was before my time--all the royalty used to go down there. And Princess Ruth was my Uncle Tarn McGrew's godmother.

A: Hmm. Let me get your birthdate while I'm thinking of it.

W: Yes, all right. September 14, 1904.

A: All right. Go ahead about Princess Ruth.

W: Well, I don't know. My grandmother was--this has nothing to do with Princess Ruth. I don't know who was regent when the [lava] flow came down on Hilo, but my grandmother was invited to go up with the royal party and one morning the queen said to her, "Mrs. McGrew, do you mind staying in your tent?" She wanted to make her offerings to Madame Pele--I believe a white rooster and a silk scarf and a bottle of liquor--and the flow stopped. [At the time of that lava flow from Mauna Loa in August 1881, Liliuokalani was Queen Regent during King Kalakaua's round-the-world trip. She arrived at Hilo on Thursday, August 4, 1881. Princess Ruth, Governess of Hawaii, was also aboard the steamer. The flow stopped on August 10, 1881, according to Sarah Joiner Lyman's journal.]

A: The flow stopped?

W: After she made the offerings. You know, it was coming right down on Hilo. And my grandmother did paint. She painted very well and Alika [Cooper] has a painting of the red glow of the flow in back of the trees I think she must have painted up there at that time.

A: And she was in a tent where?

W: Along the flow. I mean, apparently they . . .

A: They went up next to it.

W: Yes, um hm. And oh, an amusing story about Princess Ruth was my grandmother had French Huguenot blood in her and she loved France and she took my mother and her brother, Kate and Tarn, to France for about five years. I think Tarn was about ten and Mother about thirteen when they went there. But this must have been before she took them abroad, but she used to send to Paris for her clothes and

they wore these button down dresses with the tight bust and Princess Ruth had it copied and she sneezed and all the buttons either broke or burst. (laughter)

A: Popped off.

W: Then also, she had a little bonnet with violets and another one with rosebuds and I forget which Princess Ruth requested, but you can imagine her big round face with a little French bonnet with rosebuds on it.

A: Your grandmother was. . . . What was her name?

W: Pauline McGrew. Pauline Gillet McGrew.

A: Gillet?

W: G-I-L-L-E-T. And she was from Detroit.

A: Did she have a middle name?

W: Well, no. Pauline Gillet McGrew. McGrew was . . .

A: Her married name.

W: Yes, her married name, McGrew was.

A: And her husband was John Strayer McGrew.

W: And he was on General [Ulysses S.] Grant's staff.

A: Oh, he was on General Grant's staff in the Civil War.

W: And he was called the Father of Annexation because he knew all the generals and he felt that the Pacific was important to us to have and so, whenever the fleet was in or any of the American warships, they would head right for his home. And he was noted for his mint juleps and he was frowned upon by the missionaries, very much so, and I always said, "Well, we have no money because we're not missionaries." (laughter; telephone rings and she goes to answer it)

A: What did you just say?

W: Well, I said I feel so strongly that there should be something in his [Governor Pinkham's] memory and I just wonder, something named for him. I don't know exactly what but he should be remembered as a great governor. He was an important person.

- A: He was, because something that I read called him the "Champion of Social Betterment." [Biographical Sketches of Hawaii's Rulers, Bishop National Bank of Hawaii booklet, Fourth Edition, August, 1951.]
- W: Oh.
- A: He was called the "Champion of Social Betterment" and I think you're right. I'm surprised that there isn't anything named for him.
- W: It's not too late.
- A: No, it can always be done.
- W: I mean something that's really worth-while. But I'm not down here enough to know. The times change so fast and before we know it, he will be an unknown person.
- A: That's true. Was he not an unpopular candidate or appointment? His appointment as governor.
- W: Well, he was practically unknown. He had no money; he had no connections. He had no prestige. He'd had only those two jobs that I know about. I mean, getting the Filipino plantation workers and also being connected with the Board of Health.
- A: Was he the first president of the Board of Health?
- W: Could be.
- A: Or was it your Grandfather McGrew who was?
- W: Well, my father was also president of the Board of Health and my father did a great deal for the lepers with the chaulmoogra oil in those days. And it was through his influence that they could live at home and not be on Molokai. And my father was very active. Pops was very outstanding. I mean he had everything in his day. Through Walter Dillingham he had the railroads and the dredging company and then he had the hotels and he had the insane asylum and the prison and I don't think any doctor before or since has had all of those things.
- A: And this was your father.
- W: My father, Dr. Cooper. Charles Bryant Cooper. And he was practicing in Butte, Montana and had double pneumonia and it was recommended that he come down here and on the boat he met somebody. He first went to Kualoa Plantation out-

side of Hilo. No. No. What's it called?

A: Honomu?

W: No, the plantation outside of Hilo. Anyway, he went out there until he got his health back.

A: Wainaku?

W: No. Hutchinson Plantation. And then he came back to Honolulu and he was surgeon for the police, was it? I guess so.

A: For the what?

W: Police. No, what would it . . .

A: I understood that he was the physician of Kalakaua's troops. That's Dr. McGrew.

W: Oh. No, my . . .

A: You're speaking of your father now.

W: Of my father. No, I don't think Dr. McGrew had anything to do with. . . . I know my grandfather used to play poker with Kalakaua and we had his cribbage board also and I gave that to the [Iolani] Palace and I gave some crystal decanters to the palace that we had.

But my grandfather started the Medical Society in Honolulu and was its first president.

A: First president of the Medical Society.

W: Yes, Dr. McGrew. And my father was connected with all the good insurance companies here and he was very well respected. And also, Washington always asked his advice when choosing a governor because he knew the reputation of people and they respected his judgment. Mother always teased and said he was. . . . Oh, and Pops was also the first Exalted Ruler of the Elks, west of the Rockies.

A: Oh really?

W: Yeh.

A: I have some information about Dr. John Strayer McGrew, that McGrew Lane, which is off School Street and near Nuuanu Avenue, was named for him.

W: Uh huh.

A: And that he was a surgeon in the Civil War and he came to Hawaii to practice and he had his home and office at the Young Hotel site, which you mentioned earlier.

W: Yes, yes. By the way, the American consul in Honolulu owed him a large sum of money and he and my grandmother met in Washington and they came out on the brigantine Eldredge in 1867. They were on their way around the world and then he was paid off with this house and I have a picture of it someplace. So then he stayed. But when they were sleeping on the ship, the Reverend--the missionary who took care of the seafaring people--[Samuel Chenery] Damon went down and found them on the ship and invited them back to their home to sleep--to stay--and then, when he got this home, they just decided and he had his own practice here. They could do rather well if they stopped here.

Then when my father came down, Dr. McGrew's practice had fallen off and he needed some help and so, I believe, my father went in with him and helped him. And then my father, after Dr. McGrew retired, took in Dr. [James H.] Raymond and had various partners.

A: Dr. Raymond.

W: Yes, who had Ulupalakua Ranch.

A: First name?

W: Oh, I can't think of it but his wife was a Makee. Phoebe. And they had a son, Raymond. Wait a minute. Um, it's funny. Anyway, they owned Ulupalakua Ranch at the time.

A: That name is familiar but I still don't know his first name. I think that's come up before [in another interview].

W: Yeh, it won't be too hard to find out. And Dr. Grossman, the dentist, had an office in the same building.

A: Dr. [M. E.] Grossman

W: Yes, G-R-O-double S-M-A-N.

A: And what was his first name, do you know that?

W: No, I don't. (chuckles) I wasn't on first-name terms with the older generation in those days. We didn't say, "Hi, George!" (laughs)

A: No, they do these days though. There's more informality now.

W: But oh, he would drink and he would grab ahold of my jaw and just keep that drill on so that it was a terrible experience to go to the dentist with me and my early impressions.

Oh, and then about the office, Mother tells about: my grandfather had this parrot that had been in a bar in Australia and he'd laugh, "Hahahahaha! Hahahahaha! See how she walks! See how she walks!" And two ladies going by crossed the street because they thought somebody was making remarks about them. (laughter) Well, all these little anecdotes.

A: Well, that's wonderful. That's what we'd like to have, these anecdotes.

W: Oh, and then the place down at Pearl Harbor at Aiea, they had a station that let them off at their own place. The railroad stopped right there and so if parties went down Of course, some of them drove and occasionally people would yacht down there into Pearl Harbor, but the train always went through and people could get on and off the train there. And Mother and Pops went down and spent their honeymoon down there but I think Mother had to come back. She had a toothache. (chuckles)

A: She'd been to Dr. Grossman. (laughter)

W: Well, I guess Dr. Grossman wasn't in the picture. Oh, and an amusing thing that Mother said, that the night they were married they had an eight o'clock wedding in Saint Andrew's and there was a Hawaiian service beforehand, an early service, but they knew about the wedding so they just sat there. I don't know exactly whether they got them out or not, but. . . .

Mother was very active in amateur dramatics. She had a good voice and she played the violin and she played Mother Goose at the old Opera House. Then later on, Reynold played in "Charlie's Aunt." She played the aunt to Reynold's . . .

A: Who is Reynold?

W: Reynold McGrew. Reynold McGrew was actually my grandmother's grandson and he was really brought up in their home and he had a lovely voice. He married Bishop Restarick's daughter, Margaret [Frances], who had beautiful red hair and was a great flirt. Their son died at the age of eight; caught some bug in a swimming pool or something. And then she had two other daughters, who are both living now. One is Mrs. [Robert] Hunter--Peggy Mae Hunter; and the other one lives up in California--Reynolda [Mrs. Henry

Allen] Fairbanks.

We didn't have a large family. I had two older brothers. My brother Bryant married Helen [Leilani] Campbell and they have a son, Alika, who's in Hilo.

I guess we'll sign off for a little while.

A: Um hm, yes, I'm going to stop it (the recorder) because it's going to otherwise be ending.

END OF SIDE 2/1ST TAPE

BEGINNING OF SIDE 1/2ND TAPE

W: I've forgotten what I was going to . . .

A: Your father was associated with the governor.

W: Oh yes, he was an aide. He wore a white uniform and was his aide. And also, Pops was head of the draft board in 1917 and the Robinsons from Kauai felt that they weren't part of America at all; they needn't be drafted. However, he gave them some sort of jobs so that they weren't really --they got away with it somehow. But it was quite interesting.

He had to ride horseback. He and Mother had to ride horseback--he was in the army--for the exercise. I remember he decided he should look younger so he got some red dye and dyed his hair himself with a toothbrush. (laughter)

A: How clever!

W: But Pops always wore a beard, but then he shaved off his beard during the World War I. He had an ulcerated tooth and wore a beard to cover that up.

Oh, we had the first house on Tantalus and also the first house at Kahala. The Tantalus house was rather interesting because there was this circus in town and my parents, you know, had very little money. They were just recently married and my father had to make his own way. They bought this lumber from the circus. There was a young Chinese boy, Wah Lam. When Mother and Pops were first married, they just had one cook and he decided that he needed some help and he brought in this young twelve-year-old boy into the house to help him. Naturally, Mother and Pops gave him something and they found out that he was saving his money and he explained that he was from a large family and nobody else had assumed the responsibility of paying back this large debt his father had left and he was doing it. Well, I called him my Chinese brother. He was a marvelous person. Anyway, when he was still a

youngster, he drove this mule and took all this lumber from this circus up Tantalus and that was the first house on Tantalus on the top of a Hog's Back up there. That was beautiful. It had windows all around it and you could see from Pearl Harbor over to Koko Head and everywhere. It was perfectly lovely. [See page 36]

Then they had the first house at Kahala. It was all kiawe trees and the only other person was an old Japanese that made charcoal and he was way off and there was just nothing but sand at Kahala in those days. We found out we could plant papayas and we had a Japanese gardener down there. We had two bedrooms and a bath and a kitchen and a little living room and a cement lanai and we had hiki'e's out there; and it had a tin roof.

Everybody, in those days, would take off their collars and coats and take a nap after lunch and sometimes you'd find other people had arrived in the meantime and also had done the same because there were a lot of hiki'e's around. They had so much responsibility during the week that Sunday was a day of rest and they always would want to get out of town and we had this little place down on the beach at Kahala and that meant a great deal because nobody got away very much on trips and the doctors especially.

A: Do you recall, in the Kahala area, a Mrs. Auld? Was there a Mrs. Auld there at approximately that time?

W: No, the Tenney Pecks had a place near us and the Platt Cookes built later on next to us. Then Punahou [School] built a recreation--a weekend--place for their teachers down a couple of places, not too far from us.

A: Approximately where would you have been located in Kahala as you know it today, for instance?

W: About a quarter of a mile from where you turn off from Diamond Head or maybe a half a mile.

A: Half a mile from Diamond Head?

W: Yes, I would say from Diamond Head Road. What is now the [Waialae] golf course was the Isenberg place.

A: Oh, that was the Isenberg Ranch.

W: Ranch, yes, down there. Then the Mott-Smiths had a home down near that end and all the homes were on the makai [ocean] side. There was nothing on the mauka [mountain] side, in those days. But everything grew as long as you had water; grew right in the sand. And we had very nice papayas and we raised chickens. And I remember Bryant was

speaking to Ogata and one of the tourist friends said, "Isn't it wonderful your son speaks Japanese?" He was just speaking pidgin but she couldn't tell the difference. (chuckles)

A: Was it Ogata?

W: Ogata, yes. And speaking of servants, when we still lived at Hackfeld and Lunailo, we had a chauffeur, Ishihara, and he sent to Japan for a picture bride and her name was Fumi. She spoke no English. We would take them up to Vancouver Island when we bought a place in 1927 on Vancouver Island at Sproat Lake. Fumi would learn how to do certain meals--dishes. She took it down, I guess, in shorthand and in Japanese and she was able to help cook and we sort of camped there. Well, they loved our children--our first two children. He used to carry their pictures--snapshots--around with him. Then John William Cooper, doctor, operated on Fumi and she was able to have children after that. I guess they went back to Okinawa and on our fiftieth anniversary [August 15, 1978], we got a cable from Ishi and Fumi and a Christmas card last year. When the Americans landed in Okinawa, he acted as interpreter and guide and he apparently had a very nice garden.

Oh, before they went back, Fumi took tailoring lessons to learn how to tailor men's clothes and use a sewing machine and they took tools back because, I guess, they anticipated a war. Anyway, there was a classmate of my daughter, Kay, at Wellesley [College] whose husband was a doctor and he was in the service at Okinawa and they visited Ishi's home, a place which was supposed to be a show place. They were talking about Honolulu--I guess he was coming back to Honolulu--and he told about the Cooper family and he pulled out this little snapshot of Kay with a little scrawny five-year-old and said the name was Cooper and this girl recognized Kay as a Wellesley classmate. (chuckles)

A: How about that.

W: That was very interesting. Life's been so full. Mother, because she was brought up in Europe and spoke French and German fluently, when we traveled it was such fun. In the Orient and Indochina she could speak to the captain of the ship. And Mother was such a big person, everybody loved her. There was nothing small about her in any way. She was known as Aunt Kate to the younger people.

During the war, the peninsula--McGrew peninsula--was taken away from us in the beginning of the war.

A: World War II.

W: World War II. Then she lived up Manoa in Sunny Jim McCandless's house for awhile but Loy [McCandless Marks] tried to make her buy it and Mother did not want to buy up Manoa. They built shacks on the place to store all the furniture that she had at Pearl Harbor that she didn't have room for in the house. And Dr. Baldwin's home on Maui was for sale and so the trust company suggested that Mother buy that and so she moved up to Maui--two thousand feet elevation--and it is now Seabury Hall [a college preparatory school in Makawao].

A: Oh yes, I've heard of that.

W: And Bishop [Harry] Kennedy. . . . There was a boys' school on the Island of Hawaii and Bishop Kennedy thought it would be nice to have a girls' school and he approached Mother and I was there, too, and Mother asked my advice. She offered the place to us and I said, no, that I thought it would be great to have it as a school, and so she left it in her will that it should be given to the Episcopal Church.

Every time there was a headmaster from some eastern school available, Mother lived such a long time that when she did die there was nobody to start the school except the local clergyman, who was Roger Melrose, and he had had no schooling--training. But his wife [Charlotte Anne Miller Melrose] had lived in the Islands--her father was a clergyman and she lived on the Island of Hawaii--so she had a feeling for island people and they started the school with just a few students.

They called it Seabury Hall, I think, because they wanted it to be known as an Episcopal school so that it would be easy to give donations to it. Lila [Mrs. Charles Montague] Cooke gave the chapel. It's a darling chapel. And I think one of the Caldwell's sons-in-law was the architect for it and it's very modern and very sweet and simple. And then the garage--five-car garage--was turned into classrooms and they have 150 students there now. They've done a very good job. [See page 36]

Then the remaining piece of property we had downtown --where the legislature now is was our property, on Punchbowl [Street].

A: Oh yes.

W: That was our property. Then also, the state has just bought a piece of property that they're going to put the Judiciary Building on.

Our children are the fifth generation in the east to live in Bedford Village and are going back for the tercentenary--the three hundredth anniversary--at Bedford and we

have a lot of interesting history there, so I should. . . . And I've never done anything about anything (laughter) and I hope I live long enough to get some of these things put together, but then I have children who are more capable than I am, so I think that they will carry on.

Some treasures that my daughter has that I passed on are letters from General [George Smith] Patton's wife, Beatrice. She wrote from the South Pacific when they went down there. They had their own yacht and she was the only woman on board when they crossed from California out to the Islands. He was a major when they first went out there, and then a colonel. They had three tours of duty in Honolulu--on Oahu--and we knew them very well. They were just darling and she, especially, and she didn't want to waste her time. She was interested in the background of the Hawaiians and whatnot and Mother had her meet Emma Taylor--Mrs. A. P. Taylor--and through her Beatrice wrote a novel called Blood of the Shark.

A: Blood of the Shark.

W: Yes. And also, there was a French woman, a Madame Riviere --Claude Riviere--who had come up from Tahiti, who was an intellectual and an adventuress.

A: May I have the spelling of her name, please?

W: C-L-A-U-D-E. Claude. R-I-V-I-E-R-E. And she came back with a lot of Gauguin reproductions and that was the first time I had heard of Gauguin. She helped Mrs. Patton with translating Hawaiian legends into French and May Fraser did the illustrations for this book and it was called Legendes Hawaiïanes--Hawaiian legends. Then she had that printed in Paris and that's very charming. May Fraser's illustrations are lovely in that.

Emma Taylor was one of the first people to make the Hawaiians conscious of their wonderful heritage. The missionaries had, well, not considered them. . . . I don't know. But Auntie Emma made them look up their ancestry and be interested in their heritage and all that.

And this is something you might not know, that Duke Kahanamoku was called Duke because the Duke of Edinburgh was visiting here when he was born. Maybe you've heard that.

A: Yes, I have, through Mrs. Fullard-Leo. Ellen Fullard-Leo.

W: Uh huh.

A: She mentioned that. It's the only reason I would have known. This person was Emma Taylor?

W: Yes, Emma Taylor. Emma Ahuena. A-H-U-E-N-A. And it's her niece that I want you to interview.

A: Um hm.

W: Ahia Davison. Ahia's father was a famous couturier who designed evening dresses for the Honolulu ladies.

A: Oh, that's interesting.

W: Um hm. Uncle Tarn would send Mother Worth dresses from Paris and then she also had--I can't think of his first name--Davison make her evening dresses here.

A: Davison.

W: Yeh, Ahia's father. When you're a youngster, you don't pay much attention to names, I think. When you're very young, you know.

A: I suppose. (microphone noises)

W: The first time I saw Winona Love dance was up at a Daughters of Hawaii meeting and she was so graceful. It was out of doors and there she was, swaying with her beautiful hands and her ti leaf skirt and so young and tiny and pretty. And then I was looking through some clippings and there was a USO [United Service Organizations] clipping of her in uniform during the war that I have in the room that would interest you. I think Alec [Alexander] Anderson wrote this "Lovely Hula Hands" for her.

A: I believe that's true.

W: I don't know if she's active in the Daughters of Hawaii, but there are a lot of key people and I would think it would be interesting to have stories about the key people.
I'm going to come back. Just turn it off. (recorder is turned off while we discuss this and turned on again)

A: All right, would you like to tell about that?

W: Yes, I have a photograph here, given me by Connie [Constance Constable] de Bisschop, and it is a pageant in which I was the Ehu, the blonde princess, and there are all these old Hawaiian families--Beckleys and et cetera, et cetera, et cetera--in it. The program is here--Pu-Ahuula--"The Home of the Eel Princess in Manoa: A Hawaiian Legend," offered by the Dramatic and Storytelling League to the Delegates of the Pan-Pacific Educational Conference, Library of Hawaii, August 14, 1921. "The Pictures: This

legend is to be told in three living pictures." And then there's a legend; and then there's a "Planting Prayer" that Emma herself wrote; and The Cast.

Oh, here's the cast right here. Constanze Constable was The Eel Princess and Frances Cooper was "The same Princess in her Lizard form." (laughter) I have my glasses on but if you want to read off the names yourself, they might be of interest.

A: Let's see. Just a moment. (recorder is turned off while I look at the program, which has been reproduced and included with the transcript, and turned on again)

All right, would you say what you just told me, please?

W: Well, on the Cooper side, my father was Charles Bryant Cooper and his father was Charles White Cooper, a Presbyterian clergyman. My father was born in Babylon, Long Island. My grandmother was Sarah Frances Duyckinck--D-U-Y-C-K-I-N-C-K--and I was named for her. They were from Southampton, Long Island.

My father started practicing out in Butte, Montana. He went to Washington University, in Missouri I think, and studied medicine there and they graduated him without even having him deliver a baby, so he lost his first consignment case. And when he arrived in Butte with a top hat and the correct clothes for a doctor, they said, "Take those off in a hurry. You'll get beaten up." Well, it was a rough place in those days.

A: Oh my yes, I guess so. (chuckles)

W: A mining town and whatnot. He was very thin and tall and he got double pneumonia, and so his friend, Dr. Hall, sent him out to the Islands--suggested he come out here--and so that's how he came out to the Islands, for his health.

When he came out here, before he was married and the navy ships were out, Pops wore this beard and--who was it? --Admiral [William David] Leahy. . . . At the moment I can't think of which admiral it was, but the Portuguese called one Jesus and the other Christ. (laughter) [She later recalled it was Admiral William Sowden Sims.]

I wish I could remember all the plantation stories. My ears were considered too tender to share these stories, but if some plantation worker wasn't well enough to go to work and wanted to play off, my father gave him a good dose of castor oil. (chuckles) And, oh, Pops reported a case of--oh dear, I have this down somewhere. He diagnosed a case of something very serious.

Another thing that Pops did: he went as a doctor up to Kauai when they were after Kalalau, the leper. And then

he was also the doctor for the National Guard. And I think I mentioned before that he was the first Exalted Ruler of the Elks, west of the Rockies.

A: Yes.

W: Well, he was a man whom everybody respected, a low key person, but he was a joiner. Mother kidded him about being a joiner. (chuckles)

You know, this isn't for the record, but I think it would be fun, as long as you want to put in pictures or help the people for whom you are doing these [oral histories], for them to put their own pictures with it. To me, the snapshots that go into certain places give you such a sense of the times that it would be fun to have them, because I have miscellaneous things--Orient things--in scrapbooks and whatnot. And then I have letters, but they haven't been put together. Of course, it would take time and it would take know-how and patience and money and so forth. And who's going to do that? But somehow, if I have anything that's worthwhile passing along, I'd be awfully happy to do it. (recorder is turned off while we discuss this and turned on again)

I said [to Ruth Ellen Patton], "I like the books about your father, but it puzzles me, there's nothing about your mother." Of course, we loved her. She was a personal friend and if Pops was sick, she would bring him fruit or a detective story or something. And when my son was a little boy, she'd pull out a drawer in which she had quarters and give him whatever she gave him. I remember she gave him Don Blanding's book, Stowaway in Paradise, and she and I together gave my brother a desk. And oh, there was warmth and, you know, graciousness.

A: I'm going to insert here that we're now speaking of Beatrice Patton, General Patton's wife, because I didn't preface that.

W: Yes, well, there're these letters from the South Seas that are so very interesting. I said to Ruth Ellen, "Why isn't there anything about your mother, because she was such an influence and force and helpmate to your father?" She said, "She didn't want it and that was period," and that's why nothing has been published about Beatrice. And maybe as long as her daughter lives, there won't be anything, but these are fascinating letters.

END OF SIDE 1/2ND TAPE

I have here Vagabond's House by Don Blanding and it brings back many happy memories. When we came back from Paris in

1923, I met Don for the first time and there were a group of artistic people that went together. James A. Kimo Wilder, Kinau's father and husband to Sarah, loved a Bohemian atmosphere and he would have these delightful house parties at their home on Tantalus, which was the second house built on Tantalus, I believe. They lived in our house while they built their house. And Don Blanding and there was a Virginia Hearst who was a schoolteacher in Hilo; a redhead adventuress who did her best to get Kimo into trouble. Well, we put on these pageants--took an old lauhala fishing hat and made a princess' hat; rolled the sides of it and put mosquito netting over it. I was a princess and everybody would do tricks and whatnot.

Well, Don apparently was from Canada and when we knew him, he rented a little cottage that we owned, down where the legislature now stands, and he was supporting his invalid mother, who had arthritis and crooked fingers, and a half-wit brother. Then, when he got word that his Vagabond's House was printed, that was his first royalties from it and he was so thrilled. And then after that, he went on to put on the Junior League show, "Hula Moon."

And also when I came back, I was princess of the Quatre Arts Ball and Don was one of my palanquin bearers. There was a woman who had a hat shop in Honolulu and she called everybody dearie and so she was smart enough to call her shop Dearie's Hat Shop. Mother would get her evening dresses from Worth sent to her by her brother, Tarn McGrew, in Paris and I had the privilege of cutting up one of these dresses--satin, with gold brocade roses and tulle and whatnot, making Turkish trousers out of the bottom of it. And I had white ostrich plumes, which Dearie fixed up for me into a luscious headdress, and put my titian blonde hair into long curls, which she heaped upon my head. Nobody recognized me. Well, that was fun.

Don would come down to Aiea where we always had open house and anybody could come and all these stray bachelors. And we knew just anybody who drifted into the Islands and it was fun. We let Don spend some time on Tantalus once, alone, and the wind blew and the house shook and he admitted that he hadn't slept; that it was so scary up there. I was up there a little after that time for a house party we had and he wrote "Moonlight Among The Koa Leaves." I don't know if it's in one of these books or not.

He was always a little on the untidy side. Then he went to New York and after being in New York for several years, he pepped up. His speech was more crisp and faster and he spoke to women's clubs and he made quite a name for himself in New York.

Anyway, he was among our friends before we were married and we enjoyed him very much. Personally, I think they should be reprinted--everything that he's written. I

think that Vagabond's House is fascinating.

We'll discuss Governor [Sanford B.] Dole for a moment. He was my godfather and I didn't see very much of him. I remember when I was eight years old I got a little book of pussy cats. I think probably Mrs. Dole picked it out to give to me but, of course, he didn't realize how old I was at that time.

When he came down to Aiea, he was noted for making a dive feet first. He'd put his feet in front of him and then scoot across the tank with his feet up and he was famous for that. That was one of his characteristic stunts.

And Mother told us that they entertained their VIP [very important person] guests Sunday mornings with papaya and always had a seed in it for the health reason--the pectin seed. And they always served brown bread and I have Mrs. Dole's recipe for brown bread that was made in the real New England way.

Mrs. Dole painted and she loved the golden shower [tree], so that there were golden showers around their home.

My godmother, Nellie White, was Julia Castle's--Mrs. James [Bickness] Castle's sister. I never knew her because she died in childbirth before I was grown-up. Mrs. Castle had a lovely home at The Dunes over at Kahuku and in there was a light, always burning in her sister Nellie's memory.

When Aunt Julia wanted to have a home for, I guess, tired mothers, recuperating mothers or something, she went to Rome and she chose a statue of a mother with a babe in arms, holding a little boy by his hand. And that was mounted at the top of The Dunes at her place with a coral courtyard around it.

I always like to joke and I said I wanted to be married at The Dunes in a holoku and with bridesmaids in holokus and swim out to a boat. Well, I didn't pull that one off, but I was married on Vancouver Island, from an island, and I went off in dungarees and a Japanese challis blouse with storks on it, which rather amused and shocked my sister-in-law who is an Easterner. (laughter) I was a little ahead of my time. Then we got into this boat and they tied kerosene tins to the boat and the boat filled with water and dumped over the canoe.

We went eighteen miles up one of the arms of the lake at Sproat Lake--Taylor Arm--and were at a hunting lodge that Mrs. Walker, the person who kept the hotel across from us, loaned us. My father and Fumi and Shige and my brother Jack and my mother-in-law, Isabella Wood, all went up several days before the wedding, swept out the place and put a new mattress in it and fixed it up for us; but they didn't think of taking care of the stove. And when

my husband and I went up, he wanted to cook the wedding breakfast and he couldn't get the fire going. It was filled with nails from packing boxes, so when he finally got that cleaned out and got the water boiling, he'd never cooked in his life and he was trying to measure a quart of boiling water, which he measured in a glass bottle. Well, that wasn't very intelligent, was it?

Then there was a local man by the name of Cougar Smith. He was an American and he was quite a cougar hunter and he thought he'd have a little fun, so he was sleeping under our window that evening and that was really something. (laughter)

Well, that was a lovely little island--Vanderbilt Island, it was called--and we had many happy summers up there.

A: And that date you told me was . . .

W: We were married the fifteenth of August 1928. And to tell you a little about how we met, well, we had met before 1925. He'd come to a party in our house.

A: Would you give his name, please?

W: Gerard Hadden--H-A-D-D-E-N--Wood. W-O-O-D. He had a letter of introduction to me from Ellen [Eleanor Coney] Vos, who was Mrs. Hubert Vos and Hubert Vos had painted the dowager Empress of China. There's a portrait of the dowager empress in the museum on Kauai. Ellen Vos was an alii. She was a Coney from the Coney family on Kauai and her daughter was Ann Gould--born Annie [Douglas] Graham--and she married Jay Gould.

When Gerard married me, he called his grandmother Tutu and that was because Ellen Vos was a great friend of Alice Shippen's, his aunt, and he called Alice [Wood] Shippen Alika. Tutu was still alive and she wrote me a letter and signed it T-O-O T-O-O. (laughter) She founded the Gerard College in Syria.

When I took Gerard around to meet the family friends and they approved of him and he approved of them, of course he had to meet the Wah Lams, my Chinese brother--Lam and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was a Tam Sing from Makawao. And dear Shige-san. And even being an Easterner, he loved them because they loved me and we both had a very warm kamaaina feeling. So I'm glad I lived in the good old days when there was this loyalty and affection from all different nationalities--ethnic ones. (recorder is turned off and on again)

Oh, didn't I tell you that?

A: I don't know whether you did or not.

W: Kathy asked me, did Mother live at Makawao? Well, our Hackfeld place was sold to the Catholic Church and then they sold it and it was subdivided. From there we went-- we had moved the Puunui house down on McGrew Point and also built a house for my brother, Bryant, and his wife and family where Dr. McGrew's home was. Well, when the navy took our forty-five acres away from us, Mother had no place to go and she rented a home up Manoa Valley, but she didn't want to make that her permanent home. Dr. Will Baldwin, who had built the most beautiful home on Maui. . . Mrs. Baldwin was widowed at the time and had no use for this large house, so Mother bought it and all her furniture fitted in perfectly beautifully into it.

So she went up there in 1945. The house had to have the electricity changed and all that. And I think it took a whole airplane to take her and all of her things up there; all of the people who went up to help her. And then she kept open house for the servicemen who were resting there and we have just precious letters--such fun letters--from them.

Mother was a person who loved a risque story and they all, in writing to her, would type these little stories and insert them in their letters to Mother. Well, she had a stroke in 1958 and I went up there and I thought, oh well, these probably shouldn't be found, so I collected them and I took them back to Bedford with me. And one Thanksgiving, I thought, well, the children are all teenagers. I said, "They're old enough to, you know, sort of know the facts of life and enjoy their grandmother's humor, so I'll pass these around for everybody to read a story." And in our little cottage was a young English couple and they became almost part of our family and this young woman picked up one of these and read it quickly and put it back because she didn't want to read it and got another one. And she said it was worse than the first. (laughter)

When Mother was sick, she couldn't really talk, but if you told a real good joke, you'd hear this belly laugh, "Haw, haw, haw, haw, haw." You'd really get a response from her. (chuckles) So when Seabury Hall became a church school, I tried to tell them the human side of my mother and I hoped it would be a human school. On her birthday, February the twentieth every year they have a birthday party because Mother always told her age, was very proud of it, and always threw a big party and everybody sent flowers and there was usually music. She would just love life, love people, and felt that her birthday should be celebrated.

Oh, and speaking of birthdays, on Dr. McGrew's birthday the Hawaiian Band used to go up and play for him, but when Governor--and Mother never let this out but I think it's time it can be told. When Governor Carter became

governor, he decided to economize and he would not let the Royal Hawaiian Band go up and play at my grandfather's birthday. That's the first time I've told that one.

A: Oh, I'll be darned. How about that.

W: So. Where do I turn this (the recorder) off? (recorder is turned off and on again)

All my parents' life, they knew everybody in command --the generals and the admirals--and their home was always open and they would come and call on my parents. During prohibition, Mother was not a hypocrite and it was a way of life to always have a drink before dinner. We wanted to know what we were getting and we had our servants make rice gin on our own kitchen stove. Mother would squeeze fresh pineapple juice and make a delicious drink with the rice gin and the pineapple juice. All the generals and other brass were ordered to take off their coats and collars and be informal and it must have been a godsend to them.

A: Oh, I should think so.

W: And after war games, they'd come and have breakfast around our table and discuss the outcome of the war games.

Oh, and another thing at Pearl Harbor when we were there; Shige--our beloved Shige-san--was always very curious and there were field glasses around and she would look. There would be ships right out practically in our front yard and she would turn up and put the binoculars on and just be interested, looking at the ships, and they sent somebody over to investigate once--to investigate her--but it was perfectly harmless. (recorder is turned off and on again)

A: . . . So you can tell about that story, all right?

W: All right. Bryant volunteered to work with the army and he was sent up to the Island of Hawaii to appraise the property, as he had been in real estate for many years in Honolulu and knew island values, and he was able to get Parker Ranch for a dollar a year as a recreation area for our service people. And all the property that he appraised on the Island of Hawaii, everybody got their just pay for their property and it was the one place in the Islands where, at the end of the war, everybody was satisfied and paid off, which I think was a great credit to Bryant. His son is now living in Hilo. He's a commercial fisherman.

A: His son's name is what?

W: Alike, which is Hawaiian for Alexander, and he is Alike Charles Cooper. He married a Maui girl, Alma Kaiama. K-A-I-A-M-A. The Rotary Club sent her to England to study. She was selected. She has always been very outstanding. She is now provost of a junior college on Maui. They have three boys and the oldest one is also in fishing; has his own boat and truck. Kaohu, the middle one, is with his father in the fishing business. [Oldest is Alike Bryant.]

A: Kaohu. Could you spell Kaohu?

W: K-A-O-H-U. And then Mahi is the youngest son. Oh, and I must tell you a cute story. Alma brought Mahi, last summer, East. It was his first time east and it was a very cold, late spring in summer. When he came to us, he was just sixteen and I always give all the sixteen-year-old grandchildren their first good outfit. He had never had a jacket and so I took him over across to the little village store, which is very nice, and got him an outfit. He had excellent taste and he looked so well and Alma told him he looked like a prince.

We expected him to look Hawaiian because his mother is Hawaiian and the boys have always been out in the sunshine and fishing a lot, but he had this cute little well-trimmed mustache and was white as could be. Alma said, "Mahi, if you want to be a haole, now's your chance," (laughter) because I tried to inveigle one of the nephews to come and live with us and go to college in the East, but so far I haven't succeeded. (laughter) (recorder is turned off and on again) Okay?

A: Let's talk about your children.

W: We have a son, who is Gerard Hadden Wood, Junior and we call him Hadden and he is exactly about five weeks younger than Alike. Hadden has always loved the excitement of action and when he was young, why, we couldn't afford horses so motorcycles were a way of having his sport. He met his wife in the motorcycle group. She'd apparently decided that she wanted to catch him so she bought herself a motorcycle at Sears Roebuck--a lady's motorcycle, on which both our girls learned to ride a motorcycle--and after she got Hadden hooked, why then, she got rid of her motorcycle and she wouldn't let him have one after that.

She's turned out to be a wonderful daughter-in-law and she owns a half interest in the oldest real estate firm in Greenwich and they have just together bought a very old, old house where Lafayette visited, with a gorgeous garden and a fabulous house. Well, that's a long story in itself.

A: What is her first name?

W: It's Dot. She's Dorothy.

A: What about your other children's names?

W: Oh, and they have one son, Curtis.

A: C-U-R-T-I-S?

W: Yes, and Curtis likes. . . . Hadden's hobby was skydiving and every weekend he would go up and from the time he was five years old, Curtis was with him. Hadden jumps with the American flag--he has invented a sleeve in which he carries the American flag--and it's very effective. He's jumped twice in Central Park. You're not allowed to, but. Also, he likes ballooning and he was the engineer for Bob Sparks, who started across the Atlantic [Ocean] but didn't get much further than Martha's Vineyard. Well, that's a story in itself, too. (recorder is turned off and on again)

Once when he was down [in Hawaii], he got about four other skydiver friends, too. They were going to jump on all the islands, but there was a terrible storm and it was the worst weather. People couldn't even get up at Moku-leia. The planes couldn't even fly. And they started on the Island of Hawaii and on Maui, at Hana, two of them got blown completely off the route. There were about only three left when they got to Molokai and they couldn't even jump on Oahu, but they finally got down. When he came in, he was lame, limping and bruised and whatnot, but that was his idea of a good time.

A: He did it. He accomplished it.

W: Well, you know, I mean. . . . He's working on a new type of parachute that an acquaintance wanted him to try out--an engineer who didn't even skydive--but Hadden's quite an adventurer. And he's also been down, three visits, to Ecuador where they went to find out about an emerald mine that an archaeologist had looked into. There is this native tribe that's very, very dangerous and they have these spears with poison arrows and whatnot.

Anyway, on his third visit down there, the native chief wanted to meet Hadden. He's the only one he would meet. One of the men had a wrist watch and that was commandeered. And then Hadden had a twenty-two and he had been shooting some birds and things for them to eat because they were way off in the wilderness, but the chief did give him a couple of sets of these arrows--these long, pointed bamboo that blow things. You blow through them.

I don't know what his next adventure was. He wants to come up . . .

END OF SIDE 2/2ND TAPE

BEGINNING OF SIDE 1/3RD TAPE

It just occurred to me that you should know Mother's Hawaiian name. It is Kaleiokalani and I think the queen [Liliuokalani] gave her that name.

A: Sounds like it.

W: Yup.

A: Kalei . . .

W: . . . okalani. And my grandmother, the beautiful Pauline, was called, by the Hawaiians, Pikakeke'oke'o--the white peacock--because she carried herself regally and she wore such beautiful clothes. So you can add that.

A: That's interesting. (recorder is turned off and on again)

W: Mother was born February twentieth, 1873 and Uncle Tarn was three years younger.

A: What year did your mother die?

W: Mother died in 1964. 1963 or '64. I think it was in '64. And Pops died in 1941.

A: And when was he born?

W: Pops was nine years older than Mother. He was born in 1864 in Babylon, Long Island. I think I put that in already.

A: Yes, I think you did. Anything else that you had thought of, now?

W: At the moment, no. (microphone noises)

A: Okay. It's all right.

W: I think I told you of all the interests that my father had --I mean the prison, the insane asylum. Well, he was always connected with the Board of Health and the red-light district. I used to sit in the car when he made these calls sometimes and it really made sense to have a red-light district and have them examined and all that. There

was nothing wrong in it and it was so much better than in this day and age where they are spread out everywhere.

A: And on the street.

W: Yes, uh huh.

A: In other words, I wanted to clarify, he was the physician for the red-light district.

W: Yes, yes. (recorder is turned off and on again) Pearl Harbor was opened the first time--there were invitations to the opening of Pearl Harbor--and that was important. I think that that was during Uncle Pink's time. There weren't too many public things. There were parties--garden parties--and there were reviews--military reviews--and lots of dinner parties--formal dinner parties--but I can't think of anything especially spectacular in one way or another [during Governor Pinkham's term of office].

And no scandals or anything in his time. He was a very honest man and had no money and didn't try to make money out of his position, so that he was just a good, conservative, conscientious, stubborn New Englander. (laughter) You could disagree with him but he was a fine man. There was nothing petty about him. He was just understanding and, oh, his hobby was history books. He kept a set of history books in his room and enjoyed reading them.

A: United States history or general world?

W: No, world. World history. The history of the nations.

A: What sort of a voice did he have?

W: Oh, it wasn't colorless. Everything about him was very masculine. He was a short man and handicapped and on crutches and whatnot, but he had a good firm. . . . His jutting chin was about the most characteristic . . . (pause)

A: Feature.

W: . . . feature and he had blue eyes. He was on the short side. He was just very much an individual but I would call him, in this day and age, low key. He was firm. He was kind, gracious, not really slow but calm.

A: Deliberate.

W: Deliberate, yes. And he wasn't excitable. He was in pain

a great deal and these kids making noise and that sort of thing irritated him. He never had time for opera and music and stuff like that. His life was wholly political and I suppose he had to rest and take it easy when he could. He wasn't a society man in any way. He enjoyed people. (recorder is turned off and on again)

A: Would you tell me a little bit about your daughter, Alice Isabelle, who's called Ali?

W: Well, my husband nicknamed her Alibel. Ali, for Alice Shippen, my husband's aunt; and Isabelle, for my husband's mother. So she's known to the family as Alibel, the only Alibel in the world, and she likes to be called Ali.

When at Sweet Briar [College], she fell in love with a young man who was going to the University of Virginia, Travis [Ogden] Thompson. They picked each other up in a night club. I was out with Mother during her terminal illness when they decided to get married and they were married in Bedford in our Episcopal Church there, Saint Matthew's, and one of her bridesmaids was Ali MacGraw.

Someone came to me in Bedford and said, "There's a young girl here who is very worth-while and her parents are artists and it'd be awfully nice if she could go to a private school." I'm Fanny Fix-It so I made it possible for her to get a scholarship at Rosemary Hall and then, when she got to college, she got the highest scholarship award that they could give at Wellesley and she majored in French.

Well, I could tell you a lot more about Ali MacGraw, but . . .

A: Go right ahead. Go right ahead.

W: If you're interested. I happened to be East when she was getting married and she married a young man whose father was a prominent surgeon in New York. She had known this man when he was in college. Neither of them had much money and it seemed to be a love match. Well, at the wedding --I sort of crashed the wedding. Hardly any Bedford people were invited but I, being sort of a family friend, got in on it and nothing but French was spoken. She had a very stylized headdress that looked almost like a Japanese wedding headdress, you know.

And then that wedding barely lasted a year and that marriage is never mentioned. She never mentions that marriage, but when she played in "Love Story," she was just being her natural self because she was a daughter of artists and a person without money and married into a very prominent family, who made it hard for her, let us say, so that she was just being herself. I felt that it wasn't

any special acting on her part. And of course, she'd always loved Shakespearian plays in Rosemary Hall.

And then, maybe it was after this marriage, she went as interpreter with "Harper's" magazine when they took a crew to Paris to film costumes and she had to make all the contacts with the electricians and with everything herself as interpreter. And she was very extremely dressed. She'd wear high boots and, you know, tight trousers and things like that, a little bit ahead of the rest of the wacky costumes that they wear now.

It shocked her family and friends when she was in this movie. She married this person who got her into the movies and she played a nude in one scene, which was rather a shock. We see her mother. Her mother is very much of a recluse and so was her father. They made very few friends. They were antisocial completely. Her mother, I think, had some Gypsy blood, I would say. I mean, she was sort of dark and I felt sort of a foreign strain of some kind. I never knew exactly what it was and there's something sort of mysterious. But anyway.

And then she has a brother, whom I haven't seen in ages. But they were brought up beautifully. They could do all sorts of things with their hands and they were taught to think--they were intelligent--but they were very much protected by the family as young people. And they had to share a house and living--a kitchen--with another person. But we were very fond of Ali. She was a nice youngster. (counter at 175)

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcribed and edited by Katherine B. Allen

NOTE: Katharine McGrew Cooper always pronounced her mother's Hawaiian name Pikaki Keokeo (page 33); however, the Hawaiian spelling of peacock is pikake.

(page 5) The Schmidt house was the first on Tantalus in 1891; the Coopers built theirs about 1897-98.

(page 21) The chapel architect was Thomas D. Perkins.

GENEALOGY

John Strayer McGrew m. Pauline Gillet

I. Katharine Christie McGrew m. Dr. Charles Bryant Cooper

1. Charles Bryant, Jr. m. Helen Leilani Campbell

(1) Alexander Charles (Alika) m. Alma Kaiama

1) Alika Bryant

2) Kaohu

3) Mahi

2. John McGrew Cooper m. Jane Hall Noble - no issue

3. Frances Duyckinck Cooper m. Gerard Hadden Wood

(1) Gerard Hadden, Jr. m. Dorothy DuBois

1) Curtis

(2) Katharine Cooper Wood m. John Cooper McCrillis

1) Laura

2) David

3) William Gerard

(3) Alice Isabelle (Ali) Wood m. Travis Ogden Thompson

1) Tarn

2) Lynne

II. Tarn McGrew m. 1st Isabelle Scott; 2nd Marie Smith

No issue

III. Reynold Brodie McGrew, grandson m. Margaret Restarick

1. Margaret Mae McGrew m. Robert Hunter

2. Reynolda Katharine McGrew m. Henry Allen Fairbanks

Reynold Brodie McGrew's grandfather was Pauline Gillet McGrew's first husband; his father was Katharine McGrew Cooper's half-brother. Reynold was brought to Honolulu at the age of nine and was known legally as a McGrew. He called Mrs. Cooper Aunt Kate. After Margaret Restarick's death, he married Mrs. Ellen Woods Carter.

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THE WATUMULL FOUNDATION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In May 1971, the Watumull Foundation initiated an Oral History Project.

The project was formally begun on June 24, 1971 when Katherine B. Allen was selected to interview kamaainas and longtime residents of Hawaii in order to preserve their experiences and knowledge. In July, Lynda Mair joined the staff as an interviewer.

During the next seventeen months, eighty-eight persons were interviewed. Most of these taped oral histories were transcribed by November 30, 1972.

Then the project was suspended indefinitely due to the retirement of the foundation's chairman, Ellen Jensen Watumull.

In February 1979, the project was reactivated and Miss Allen was recalled as director and editor.

Three sets of the final transcripts, typed on acid-free Permalife Bond paper, have been deposited respectively in the Archives of Hawaii, the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii, and the Cooke Library at Punahou School.